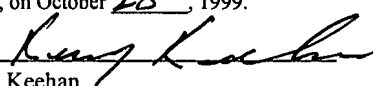




PATENT  
Docket No. 388402000900

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Kerry Keehan

ec  
11-19-99  
17/E

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Barry N. GARDINER et al.

Serial No.: 08/781,579

Filing Date: January 9, 1997

For: SUTURED STAPLE SURGICAL  
FASTENERS, INSTRUMENTS AND  
METHODS FOR MINIMALLY  
INVASIVE VASCULAR AND  
ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY

Examiner: Tina T.D. Pham

Group Art Unit: 3731

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Group 3700

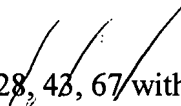
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action (Paper No. 16) dated August 10, 1999 for which  
a response was due on November 10, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS

  
Please cancel claims 28, 43, 67 without prejudice of later renewal.

Claims 68, 71, 73 and 76 are withdrawn with traverse.

E